

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for fecal coliform bacteria in seven shellfish propagation waters located Accomack County, Virginia.

All impaired segments are located wholly within Accomack County except for Occohannock Creek which is split between Accomack and Northampton Counties. These areas are described in the following publications:

- 1) Growing Area 75, Pocomoke Sound and Pocomoke River as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Number 33, effective 15 October 1996, and Number 118 for Starling Creek, effective 27 April 1989
- 2) Growing Area 76 as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Number 167 for Messongo Creek, effective 10 December 1993, and 176 for Young and Guilford Creeks.
- 3) Growing Area 81, Pungoteague Creek as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Number 119 for Pungoteague Creek effective 24 February 1997 and 200, for Butcher Creek.
- 4) Growing Area 82 Nandua and Currituck Creeks, as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Number 160 for Onancock Creek and 175, for Back Creek.
- 5) Growing Area 83, Craddock Creek, as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Number 195.
- 6) Growing Area 84, Occohannock Creek as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Number 43.
- 7) Growing Area 101 Assateague and Chincoteague Islands south as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Number 20.

The affected water body segments are identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for fecal coliform bacteria in shellfish waters. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

The first public meeting on the development of the fecal coliform TMDL's will be held on March 3, 2005 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Accomack County Administration Building, 23296 Courthouse Avenue Accomack, Virginia. Directions can be obtained by calling Chester Bigelow at (804) 698-4554 or the Yvonne Williams at (757) 787-5700.

The public comment period will begin on March 3, 2005, and end on April 1, 2005. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Chester Bigelow and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments. Requests should be sent to Chester Bigelow, Department of Environmental Quality, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23240, telephone (804) 698-4554, Fax (804) 698-4116, or e-mail ccbigeLOW@deq.virginia.gov.